



Memo No. 2021-021
Date: 30-Jan-2021
Memo To: Clients
Re: ***New Method and Revised Reporting – Catecholamines, Plasma***

Effective July 1st, 2021, there will be a change in methodology for the measurement of plasma catecholamines at the UHN Laboratory Medicine Program's Core Laboratory. This will result in the reporting of dopamine, in addition to norepinephrine and epinephrine. The new method is robust and free of interference.

Catecholamines, Plasma

Pre-analytical consideration: Patient must refrain from eating, using tobacco and drinking caffeinated beverages for at least 4 hours before the specimen is drawn. Catechol drugs may interfere, including alpha methyl dopa, alpha-methyl-para-tyrosine, isoproterenol, dobutamine and carbidopa. Patient must be in supine position for at least 30 minutes prior to specimen collection.

Specimen: Plasma (2 EDTA lavender top tubes)

Turnaround time: 10 days

Reference Ranges (supine position only):

Norepinephrine: 0.5 - 3.1 nmol/L

Epinephrine: < 1.1 nmol/L

Dopamine: < 0.13 nmol/L

Note: Higher catecholamine concentrations are observed in specimens collected from upright or standing adults.

Method: Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)

If you have further questions, please contact Client Care at (416) 422-3000 Ext. 300 or info@iclabs.ca

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